

# IN THE NEWS

## OED on disc

Lexicographers and computer systems specialists in the United Kingdom have produced a single compact disc that enables the entire twelve volumes of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) to be scanned in seconds.

The Dictionary is a heavyweight work intellectually, but the compact disc is lighter than the original on both the scales and the pocket: at A\$1060 it is only half the price of the printed twelve-volume edition.

Work to provide a computer database from which new editions of OED could be produced in both printed and electronic form began in 1984. The compact disc now available is the first product of this project, and in 1987 won the British Computer Society Applications Award.

Optical scanning was rejected in favour of keyboarding, which took only 18 months compared with the 50 years it took to produce the first full OED.

The CD-ROM version of the dictionary is available from Oxford University Press in the UK for £500, with an additional £7 charge for airmail postage and packing costs.

## ALIA Alert

ALIA is currently preparing the first issue of its new newsletter *ALIA Alert*. The newsletter — planned as a quarterly publication — is aimed at

- informing Association members about developments in Australian public affairs that impact on libraries and information services; and
- placing library and information issues before members of parliament and other community leaders.

*ALIA Alert* will cover budgetary and policy decisions, changes in party platforms, media ownership, and business and industry, and significant developments affecting the national collection. It will be distributed to all members of the Association via *InCite*, and to others as appropriate.

With the departure of Alex Byrne for Darwin, I have taken over as coordinating editor of *ALIA Alert* and should be grateful for contributions. Please send them to **Michael Evans, Coordinating Editor, ALIA Alert, R.G. Menzies Building, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra, ACT 2601.** My telephone number is (062) 49 4251.

*Michael Evans*

## DDC20 from DA

Forest Press — publishers of Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) 20th Edition — was recently purchased by OCLC, the large North American library network. OCLC has appointed distributors worldwide for effective marketing of DDC20. DA Books and Journals (11 Station Street, Mitcham, Victoria) were chosen to service the Australasian market. Telephone (03) 873 4411. Facsimile (03) 873 5679.

## Bennett-EBSCO ends the confusion

Bennett-EBSCO Subscription Services was formed in 1981, following the acquisition by EBSCO of the subscription department from the James Bennett Group.

Bennett-EBSCO is the Australian

branch of EBSCO Subscription Services, Alabama, USA. It has no connection with the James Bennett Group or its parent company John Menzies PLC (currently under offer of purchase by Blackwell).

Bennett-EBSCO will continue to operate as a branch of EBSCO Subscription Services at 35 Mitchell Street, North Sydney, NSW 2060. Telephone (02) 922 5600. Facsimile (02) 922 6659.

## Digging to China

The Children's Book Council of Australia's China Committee is holding a

### CORRECTION

In the 24 April issue of *Incite* it was stated that the 20 Edition of *Dewey* was available from Blackwell North America. In fact, market restrictions placed on this work means that *Dewey* is not available from overseas suppliers and must be ordered from local suppliers

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